



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

4 December 1971

NSC review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : 4 December 1971 [redacted] Telephone  
Call Regarding Prisoner Exchange

REFERENCE : Supplementary Instructions Relayed Via  
[redacted] Headquarters Message [redacted]  
[redacted] 30 November 1971

1. Attached is the text of a 4 December cable just received from our Saigon Station [redacted] reporting a nine and one half minute [redacted] telephone call made [redacted] at 0846 (Saigon time) on Saturday, 4 December 1971.

2. As noted in the attached cable's final paragraph, Ambassador Bunker has been briefed on this call and at the time he filed his message our Station Chief was making arrangements to brief General Abrams.

[redacted] followed the Washington instructions sent via our channels to Saigon on 30 November 1971.

4. On first reading of the transcript of the 4 December conversation, it seems to us that the Communists are taking a tough bargaining line [redacted] in the first exchange. We get the very strong sense, however, that the Communist caller had a scenario

DPMO review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

SECRET/ [redacted]

*Mac Chou*

25X1 approved by his superiors and that he had no discretionary latitude or authority to negotiate. Nonetheless, though he rang off without committing himself to call back, he did not slam any doors. We share Ambassador Bunker's view that the best U.S. course of action for the moment is to sit tight. [redacted]

25X1

25X1 [redacted] They are tough bargainers but they also respect firmness on the other side of the table. We believe the channel will probably be reactivated in due course and this [redacted] dialogue continued.

5. I am sending copies of this message on an eyes only basis to Secretary Rogers, Secretary Laird and Admiral Moorer.

25X1

[redacted]

*for* Richard Helms  
Director

Attachment

cc: Secretary Rogers  
Secretary Laird  
Admiral Moorer

O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver, Jr. /mee

1 - ER  
1 - DDP  
1 - C/FE  
25X1 1 - C [redacted]

1- Sexton  
4- Mac Choro

25X1

SECRET/ [redacted]